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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/730,558	12/08/2003	Sten Nilsson	33280	4245

23589 7590 03/23/2006

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EXAMINER

SHARMA, RASHMI K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3651

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/730,558	NILSSON, STEN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Rashmi K. Sharma	3651	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/4/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4 and 10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Newsome (US Patent number 6,7409,008) in view of Stocker (US Patent number 4,226,324).

Newsome discloses s conveyor apparatus for transporting flat articles (S) in succession from a source of supply, the improvement comprising an article rotating portion (38, 40, 42) operable while advancing each successive article along a path of travel to rotate the article a quarter-turn about a longitudinal axis extending axially of the path of travel, the article rotating portion (38; 40, 42) including opposed lengths of conveyor belts disposed to receive and grip each article therebetween as the article advances along the travel path, the opposed belts being twisted about the longitudinal axis of the path of travel, the width of the opposed conveyor belt length is narrower than the width of each article, thereby engaging each article generally centrally thereof.

Newsome also discloses the articles (S) traveling in an upwardly arched path, the articles having an axis that is normal to the plane of the article whereby the supply presents the article to the conveyor apparatus with the axis extending upwardly (see

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Figure 2), wherein an article turning portion comprising opposing stretches of conveyor belts operable while advancing the articles along the path of travel to turn each article until its axis extends generally horizontally (Figure 2, as the article initially travels upwardly along 32), wherein the opposed conveyor belt (34, 36) stretches initially extending generally horizontally and thereafter turning downwardly to turn the article axis generally horizontal, whereby the opposed conveyor belt stretches extending upwardly after initially extending generally horizontally and before turning downwardly (arched path), stationary guides (146, 150) adjacent the path of travel, an article discharge portion (area around 142, 144) immediately downstream from the article rotating portion and operable to maintain each rotated article in its rotated orientation as it continues along the path of travel and the discharging portion including a pair of opposed, conveyor assemblies operable to grip and advance each article along the travel path upon exiting the article rotating portion, wherein the discharge conveyor assemblies being supported in a manner that permits the direction of the article discharge therefrom to be angularly adjusted (see Figure 2).

Newsome as disclosed above fails to show an inserting station.

Stocker does disclose the use of inserting station (read column 5 lines 22-26).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add an inserting station to Newsome's invention as taught by Stocker as conveying to and from inserting stations is extremely well known in the art.

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Claims 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Newsome (US Patent number 6,740,008) in view of Stocker (US Patent number 4,226,324) and Watson (US Patent number 3,729,189).

Newsome as disclosed above, fails to show stationary guides comprising a plurality of opposed elongated rods extending longitudinally of the path of travel.

Watson does disclose stationary guides (50, 60) comprising a plurality of opposed elongated rods extending longitudinally of the path of travel.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace Newsome's stationary guides with that of Watson's guide arrangement in order to provide for an alternative way of further guiding the articles as they are being rotated.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rashmi K. Sharma whose telephone number is 571-272-6918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Crawford can be reached on 571-272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

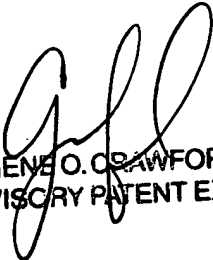
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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GENE O. CRAWFORD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER